

ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION and ENQUIRY

*Concerning* MATTERS

Ecclesiastical:

EXHIBITED

To the Ministers, Church-Wardens, and Side-men of  
every Parish within the

DIOCESE of WINCHESTER,

In the VISITATION of the

*Right Reverend Father in God*

GEORGE

*By Divine Providence*

Lord Bishop of WINCHESTER.

LONDON,

Printed for T. Garthwait, 1668.



*The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred to  
the Church-wardens, and Sidemen, of every  
Parish.*

**Y**OU shall Swear diligently to enquire  
and to make a true answer unto every  
Article in this Book now given you in  
Charge, and to Present every Person that now  
is, or of late was, inhabiting within your  
Parish, that hath done any Offence, or omit-  
ted any Duty, therein mentioned. And  
this you shall do, uprightly and truly, with-  
out Favour or Malice, Hope of Reward, or  
fear of Displeasure, so far as by Law you are  
bound. *So help you God.*





# ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION and ENQUIRY

Within the

DIOCESE of WINCHESTER.

## TITUL. I.

*Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.*

I. **I**S your Parish Church or Chappel, kept in good and sufficient repair? Are the Roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tile, or Slate? the Windows well Glazed, the Floors well Paved, the Seats well fastned, and conveniently placed; and all things so decently ordered, as becometh the house of God?

II. **H**ATH the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chappel, or any part thereof, been pulled down, or any of the Lead or Bells formerly belonging thereunto. been murthered, sold, or made away? In whose hands or custody doth the same, or any part thereof remain? Declare what you know, or have heard herein.

# Articles of Visitation.

III. IS there a Font of Stone, with a good Cover thereunto, standing in a convenient place towards the lower part of your Church, for the Administration of Baptisme? And is there in your Chancel, a decent Communion-Table, for the Administration of the Lords Supper, with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Woollen cloth, and another Covering of white and pure Linnen to spread thereupon? And have you a fair Communion-Cup, or Chalice, with a Cover of Silver, and one or more Flagons of Silver, or Pewter, thereunto belonging?

IV. HAVE you in your said Church or Chappel, a convenient Seat, or Pew, for your Minister to read Divine Service in? A Pulpit, with a comely Cloth or Cushion for the same? A Bible of the last Translation, in a large Volume, and the Book of Common-Prayer late Published Anno 1662. both well and substantially bound? Have you likewise the Book of Homilies, set forth by Authority? A Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical? And a Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

V. HAVE you a comely large Surplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his Publick Ministration in the Church, provided, and to be duly washed at the Charge of the Parish?

VI. HAVE you a Register, Book of Parchment, wherein to Register the Names and Surnames of all such persons as are Married, Christned, or Buried within your Parish? together with the Names and Surnames of both the Parents of the Children so Christned, expressing the day, month, and year, of all such Christnings, Marriages, and Burials? And is the transcript thereof yearly, within one Month next after the 25 of March, brought into the Bishops Registry.

VII. HAVE you likewise another Book of Paper, wherein to record the Names and Licenses of all such Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chappel? As also, a third Book wherein to write down the Church-Wardens Accounts: Together, with a strong Chest with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforesaid Books, and all other the aforesmentioned Furniture in safe Custody? And lastly, have you a Bier, with a black Hearse-cloth, for the Burial of the Dead?



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## T I T. II.

*Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes, and Tithes belonging to the Church.*

I. **I**S your Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls, Railles, or Pales, and decently kept from the annoyance of Swine, Horses, and other Cattel? Hath any person encroached upon the same? or made any door into it, out of his own ground or habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? Have any Trees there growing, been cut down? how long since? by whom? and to whose use and benefit?

II. **I**S the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, (with all the out-houses thereunto belonging) kept in good and sufficient repair? Or have any of the said Houses, or Out-houses, been defaced or pulled down without Licence from the Ordinary? and by whom? Hath any person encroached upon any Garden, Yard, or Close, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage-house? or cut up any Trees growing thereon? or changed, or removed the ancient Marks and Bounds of the same?

III. **H**A V E you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-Lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also, a note of such Pensions, Rate-Tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits (either within, or without your Parish) as belonging thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom, as you know, or have heard?

IV. **H**A V E any of the ancient Glebe-lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, been taken away, or exchanged for other, without the free consent of the incumbent, and License from the Ordinary?

## T I T. III.

*Concerning Ministers.*

I. **I**S your Minister defamed or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniacal compact?

II. **H**A T H he been legally Inducted into his Benefice?

III. **D**id he within two months after his Induction, publicly in the Church, upon some Sunday, or Holy-day, in the time of Divine

## Articles of Visitation.

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III. **H**A V E you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-Lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also, a note of such Pensions, Rate-Tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits (either within, or without your Parish) as belonging thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom, as you know, or have heard?

IV. **H**A V E any of the ancient Glebe-lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, been taken away, or exchanged for other, without the free consent of the Incumbent, and License from the Ordinary?

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I. **I**S your Minister defamed or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniacal compact?

II. **H**A T H he been legally Inducted into his Benefice?

III. **D**id he within two months after his Induction, publicly in the Church, upon some Sunday, or Holy-day, in the time of

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vine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England, established by Authority, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto?

IV. HATH he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice? Is he constantly resident upon his Benefice amongst you? How many weeks in any one year hath he been absent from it?

V. HATH your Minister a Curate to assist him? and who is that Curate? Is he conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England? And doth he serve in any other Church beside? and what yearly stipend doth your Minister allow him?

VI. DO TH your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the holy Sacraments, celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Child-birth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, and pronouncing Gods Commination against impenitent Sinners, use the form and words prescribed in the Book of Common-Prayer, without any addition, omission or alteration of the same? And doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the said Book, performing his Office in all things according to the Rubrick of the Book of Common-Prayer lately Published, so far as you have obser'd?

VII. DO TH your Minister, at the Reading or Celebrating the Divine Offices in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice?

VIII. DO TH he observe the Holy daies and Fasting daies, as also the Ember weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation week, as in the Common-Prayer-book, or by the Ecclesiastical Canons is appointed? giving notice to the Parishioners of every of the same, in the Church, in the time of Divine Service, upon the Sunday next before?

IX. HATH your Minister been licensed to preach by the Bishop? If so, Doth he then constantly (unless in case of sickness, necessary absence, or other reasonable impediment) himself preach in your Church or Chappel, one Sermon every Sunday? Or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being so Licensed, be hindered by sickness or otherwise, as aforesaid; doth he procure a Sermon to be so Preached, or one of the Homilies set forth by Authority, to be there read by a Priest or Deacon, lawfully Ordained?

X. DO TH your Minister diligently instruct the youth of your Parish, in the Church Catechism? and doth he prepare and present them



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them, being so instructed, to be Confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants, and other Sectaries, (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of England, and to their bounden duty in obeying the Laws, and submitting to the Government thereof?

XI. D O T H he refuse, or neglect to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of Death? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other person of more years, through your Ministers default, yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish? Doth he Baptize any without God-fathers and God-mothers, or admit either of the Parents to be God-father, or God-mother to their own Children?

XII. H A T H he at any time (as you know, or have heard) preached any False, Heretical, Seditious, or Schismatical Doctrine, thereby to seduce the people into parties and factions, to the disturbance of the publick peace and unity, either of Church or State?

XIII. H A T H he presumed to Marry any persons in private houses? or such as, being under age, have not the consent of their Parents, or without the Banns first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church? or at any other hours then between Eight and Twelve in the Morning, unless he had a License or Dispensation so to do?

XIV. D O T H any person Preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance from the Bishop for so doing? Doth he before his Lecture, read Divine Service, according to the Book of Common-Prayer? and is he in all respects conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England?

XV. H A T H your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophesyings, or Exercises not appointed by Authority? or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Layperson, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private Houses within your Parish for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanaulging, or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided?

XVI. IS your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, a man of sober, unblameable, and exemplary Life? Doth he familiarly converse with naughty, vicious, and excommunicate persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns, or Ale-houses? a common Gamester? a Swearer, Ryler, or Quarreller? Doth he set Neighbourhoods at variance one with another? or encourage them to Suits and Contentions? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker?

ker? or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any person, either within your Parish, or without? Is his apparel grave and decent, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his Carriage and Conversation, in any kind whatsoever, Disorderly or Scandalous, and unbecoming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

## T I T. IV.

*Concerning the Parishioners.*

I. **I**S there in your Parish any person a known or reputed Heretick or Schismatick? any Papist, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker, or other Sectary that refuse to come unto the publick assemblies, prayers, or services of the Church, or that make profession of any other Religion then what is established in the Church of England? and if there be any such, what are their Names?

II. **I**S there any person in your Parish that lieth under a common fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common drunkards within your Parish, or common swearers, or blasphemers of Gods name, or any that are noted to be railers, unclean or filthy talkers, or sowers of sedition, faction, and discord amongst their neighbours?

III. **D**O any of your Parish upon the Sundays or Holy dayes, follow their bodily and ordinary labour? or permit their servants so to do? are any shops kept open, or wares sold?

IV. **D**O TH every person inhabiting or sojourning within your Parish, duly resort unto your Church or Chappel, upon every Sunday and Holy day appointed for Divine Service? Do they then and there abide quietly with reverence, order and decency, during all the whole time of Common Prayer, Preaching, or other service of God there used? and are there any among you that come only to the Preaching, and not to the Common Prayers of the Church?

V. **D**O TH every person reverently uncover his head, and so continue all the time of Divine Service in the Church? Do they all reverently kneel at the Prayers, and stand up when the Creed and Gospel are read, making due reverence when the Name of our Lord Jesus is mentioned?

VI. **A**RE there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant Children to be Baptized publickly in the Church, unless in

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case of urgent danger; in which case, the child may be baptized at home, by a lawful Minister, after the form and rites appointed in the Liturgy? Or do they send them from their own Minister to be baptized, in any other Parishes, or after any other form than is appointed? Or do they keep them unbaptized any longer time than the Church alloweth? And are there any Infants or more aged persons in your Parish as yet unbaptized?

VII. D O T H every Householder in your Parish cause their children and servants to come to Church and learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof unto your Minister, as he shall require it of them, openly in the Church upon Sundays and Holy-days, as in the Book of Common-Prayer is appointed: that when they are well Instructed in the same, they may be confirmed by the Bishop?

VIII. I S there any person in your Parish, who being 16 years of age, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times in the year, of which Easter is always to be one? Doth any in your Parish refuse to receive the same kneeling? or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad? Or are there any strangers not of your Parish, that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours for it?

IX. H A V E you any among you, that be denounced and declared excommunicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so excommunicated? And do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved?

X. A R E there any living in your Parish, as Man and Wife, who are within Degrees prohibited? Or any that being lawfully divorced have married again? Or any that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together?

XI. A R E there any married Women in your Parish, who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church? and when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their offerings according to custom?

XII. A R E there any belonging to your Parish, who refuse to pay their duty for Easter offerings to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute, and pay the rate assessed upon them, for the repair of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such books, furniture and ornaments, as be requisite for the performance of all Divine offices there?

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XIII. DO any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites of the Church of England? And are there any Wills or Testaments, of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? Or any goods administered, without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel? What were those Legacies?

XIV. IS there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the Body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

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T I T. V.

*Concerning Parish-Clerks, and Sextons.*

I. **H**AVE you belonging to your Church or Chappelry, a Parish-Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister? and doth he only attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his Wages duly paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

II. **D**O TH he or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to the doors of your Church, that they be locked and opened at due time? And doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from dust, cobwebs, and other annoyance? Doth he toll or ring the Bells at the due accustomed hours before the beginning of Divine Service, Morning and Evening, that the people may be warned to come unto the Church? And when any person is passing out of this life, doth he, upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell as hath been accustomed, that the Neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?



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## TIT. VI

*Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-Masters, Physicians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.*

I. **I**S there in your Parish any Hospital, Almshouse, or Free-School not of the King's foundation, or Patronage? Who was the Founder, or is now the Patron thereof? And what is the yearly Revenue, or Stipend, belonging to the Governors, or Masters, of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as it ought to be? and are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of such Grants and Ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

II. **DOTH** any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed therunto by the Bishop? Doth your School-master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion, set forth by Authority? Doth he cause them, upon Sundays and Holy-days, orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

III. **DOTH** any man in your Parish, practise Physick, or Chirurgery, or any Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of a Midwife, without approbation and license from the Ordinary.

## TIT. VII.

*Queries to be put to the Ministers.*

I. **A**RE the Church-Wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joynt consent of the Minister and Parishioners; or one of them by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

II. **HAVE** the former and last Church-Wardens given up their due Accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-Wardens the Monies remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

III. **DO** the Church-Wardens and Side-men take diligent care, and see who of your Parishioners be absent from the Divine Service and Sermon in your Church or Chappel, upon Sundays and Holy-days? And if they find any to have absented themselves without a sufficient cause, do they by Warrant from some of the Justices of Peace, levie of them, by way of distress upon their goods, the sum of 12 pence for every such day of their absence, according to the Act

of Parliament in that case provided? And do they distribute the several sums so levied, among the poor of your Parish, according to the Law?

IV. DO they present those that come late to Church after Divine Service is begun, or depart before it be ended? Do they suffer none to stand idle, or talk together in the Church-Porch, or to walk in the Church, or Church-yard, during the time of Prayers, Preaching, or other Sacred Offices?

V. DO they suffer no misbehaviour or disorder to be done by men, women, or servants, or children, in your Church or Chappel? Are they careful that none of them sit, lean, or lay their Hats upon the Communion-Table? Do they permit no Minstrels, no Morris-dancers, no Dogs, Hawks, or Hounds, to be brought or come into your Church, to the disturbance of the Congregation?

VI. DO they against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, & of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants?

VII. DO they cause all Strangers that preach in your Church or Chappel, to subscribe their names the same day in a Book provided for that purpose, together with the name of the Bishop that licensed them to preach in this Diocese? and do they permit no other to preach?

VIII. HAVE they (the Church-wardens and Side-men) now sworn to give in a true answer unto all these Articles of Inquiry in all their several Titles taken sufficient time to draw up their Presentments, and therein consulted with you their Minister for your faithful assistance?

FOR know you assuredly, That as the true discharging of your Office is the chief means whereby publick Disorders, Sins, and Offences in your Parish may be reformed and punished: So, if you wilfully refuse to present such crimes and faults as either you know to have been committed, or otherwise have heard of by publick fame; That in such cases, the Bishop and his Officers are to proceed against you, in their Ecclesiastical Courts, as in Cases of wilful Omission and Perjury.

GEO. WINTON.

THE Ministers of every Parish are desired to give in the Names of such of the younger sort, in their several Parishes, as they judge fit to receive Confirmation from the Bishop, and to present them to be confirmed, especially such as having competently learned that Catechism, have not yet received the Holy Communion.

